

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS****Claims pending:**

- At time of the Office Action: Claims 1-16, 18-21, and 23-24.
- After this Response: Claims 1-16, 18-21, and 23-24.

**Canceled claims:** None.**Amended claims:** 1, 10 and 21.**New Claims:** None.

The listing of claims below will replace prior versions of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
assigning a plurality of devices to a group;  
assigning at least one event-handling policy to the group, wherein the assigned policy is associated with each of the plurality of devices in the group; and  
evaluating a current state of each device in the group before the assigned policy is applied to the device.
2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein evaluating a current state of each device determines whether each device is currently a member of the group.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein evaluating a current state of each device includes:
- determining whether a particular device is currently a member of the group;
- and
- applying the assigned policy to the particular device if the particular device is currently a member of the group.
4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein each device is assigned at least one additional policy that is not assigned to the group.
5. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein a particular device is assigned to multiple groups.
6. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the event-handling policy defines how the device is configured.
7. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the event-handling policy identifies the types of events that are provided to each device.
8. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the method is implemented by a management module.

9. (Original) One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 1.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a group of devices having an associated event-handling policy;  
an event log configured to store event data; and  
a management module coupled to the group of devices and the event log,  
wherein a current state of each device in the group of devices is evaluated by the management module before the event-handling policy is applied to the device; and

wherein the management module determines whether a particular device is currently a member of the group before the event-handling policy is applied to the device.

11. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein a plurality of groups of devices are coupled to the management module.

12. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein each device in the group of devices is assigned at least one policy that is not assigned to the group.

13. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the event-handling policy defines how the devices are configured.

14. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the event-handling policy identifies the types of events that are provided to each device.

15. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the apparatus is part of an enterprise computing system.

16. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the management module receives event data generated by a plurality of event providers.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, performs the process of:

assigning a plurality of devices to a group;  
identifying an event-handling policy associated with the group of devices, wherein the event-handling policy defines how devices are configured;  
assigning the event-handling policy to the group of devices; and  
evaluating a current state of each device before the assigned event-handling policy is applied to the device.

19. (Original) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 18 wherein a particular device is assigned to multiple groups of devices.

20. (Previously Presented) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 18 wherein the event-handling policy further defines the type of event data that is provided to each device.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

- determining states of systems in an enterprise;
- assigning the systems to groups based on rules associated with the groups and the states of the systems;
- assigning policies to at least one particular group;
- reevaluating the states of each system in the particular group;
- if the states are valid according to the rules associated with the particular group, applying the policies to the systems in the particular group; and
- if the states of a particular system in the particular group are is not valid, updating the particular group to delete the particular system; and applying the policies to the systems in the updated group.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 21, further comprising:

creating an event log associated with the particular group; and  
maintaining information about the states of the systems in the particular group in the event log.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 21, wherein the states represent at least one of a version of an operating system, a location in a geographic region, a configuration of the system, presence of a particular hardware item, or capacity of a particular hardware item.